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1 JUN 1967

Mr. Andrew E. Ruddock, Director Bureau of Retirement and Insurance U. S. Civil Service Commission Washington, D. C. 20415

Dear Mr. Ruddock:

I have been authorized by the Board of Directors. Government Employees' Health Association. Inc., to respond to your letter of 20 April 1967 and to set forth in this letter proposed changes in benefits and premiums which the Board is contemplating for our Association Benefit Plan for the forthcoming contract year.

Resping in mind the opecific details and spirit of your letter of 20 April with respect to benefit changes and rate increases, the Board has restricted this year's review to only critical aveas in our Plan that need improvement. Specifically, the Board requests approval to increase the daily hospital room and board rate from the present \$10 a day to \$40 a day and the present hospital room and board rate for maternity from the present \$20 a day to \$50 a day. Our underwriter has informed us that the increase to \$40 a day will require a bi-weekly, not to carrier contract increase of \$1.22 room and board for family plan and \$0.19 for the increase in maternity coverage. The bi-weekly, not to carrier contract increase for room and board to \$40, single plan, will be \$0.47.

I should add that the Board experienced some uncortainty about the premium rate increases called for by these proposed benefit changes and saked me to teclude in this letter a request for permission to reduce the proposed premium increases and benefit changes at a later date. The Board's final decision must increases and benefit changes at a later date. The Board's final decision must hereaft additional information and analysis, and we trust that we can reserve the right to lower both our bonefit proposals and rate increases set forth above at a later date even though it may occur beyond your 30 June and 31 August 1967 deadlines.

We are available for discussion of the contents of this letter as you may wish.

STAT

GG: Mr. Norman C. Coursey (Mutual of Onaha)

Distribution:

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ohd (1 June 1967)